No Objection to Declassification in Part 2011/09/30 : LOC-HAK-548-10-23-7

SENSITIVE

SITUATION: HAK TRIP
SUBJECT CATAGORY: TOHAK

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:
IMMEDIATE
O 211217Z OCT 73
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK49

TO PETER RODMAN FOR DR KISSINGER

~~T O P S E C R E T~~ SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH32582

TOHAK 49

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD OCTOBER 21, 1973
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
SUBJECT: SUNDAY MORNING SUMMARY
MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: IN YESTERDAY'S ACTION ON THE WEST BANK OF THE SUEZ CANAL, THE ISRAELIS APPARENTLY MADE ADVANCES AND ENJOYED TACTICAL SUCCESSES BUT THEY DID NOT ACHIEVE A DECISIVE BATTLE. AT A BRIEFING LAST NIGHT, THE HIGH-RANKING ISRAELI BRIEFER WAS CONFIDENT BUT "REMARKABLY SUBDUED" IN THE OPINION OF THE U.S. ATTACHES. THE ATTACHES FELT THAT THE SITUATION WAS PERHAPS NOT AS CERTAIN AS THE BRIEFING IMPLIED OR THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES IN THE DAY'S FIGHTING. THE ISRAELIS HAVE RETAINED THE INITIATIVE ON THE WEST BANK, HOWEVER. THEY ARE EMPHASIZING MOVEMENT AND ARE BYPASSING HEAVILY DEFENDED EGYPTIAN POSITIONS. THREE ISRAELI BRIGADES -- TWO ARMORED AND ONE COMPOSED MAINLY OF INFANTRY -- ARE NOW FIGHTING ON THE WEST BANK. THE INFANTRY BRIGADE HAD ADVANCED AS FAR AS THE OUTSKIRTS OF ISMAILIA NORTH OF THE BRIDGEHEAD AT DEVERSOIR TWO DAYS AGO AND SEEMS TO BE HOLDING ITS POSITION. THE TWO ARMORED BRIGADES ATTACKING SOUTH OF THE BRIDGEHEAD HAVE EXPERIENCED THE MOST INTENSIVE FIGHTING. ONE BRIGADE REPORTEDLY OVERRAN REMNANTS OF AN EGYPTIAN ARMORED DIVISION SOUTH OF THE BITTER LAKES THAT HAD BEEN BROUGHT BACK FROM THE EAST BANK ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 10. THE THIRD ISRAELI BRIGADE HAS MOVED SOME 18 MILES NORTHWEST OF DEVERSOIR

MORI/CDF

******* WHSR COMMENTS *******

SECFL

PSN:013138 DTG:211217

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY TDR:2941240

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NSA & DIA reviews completed

MORI PER C03340837

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2011/09/30 : LOC-HAK-548-10-23-7

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AND NOW BLOCKS THE DESERT ROAD FROM CAIRO TO ISMAILIA. BOTH OF THE ISRAELI ARMORED BRIGADES APPEAR TO BE ATTACKING TOWARD JABAL AL JUFRAN, WHERE THE EGYPTIANS REPORTEDLY HAVE TWO ARMORED BRIGADES PLUS ELEMENTS OF A MECHANIZED DIVISION. THE ISRAELIS CLAIM TO HAVE BLOCKED ALL ROADS AND RAIL LINES LEADING FROM CAIRO TO THE CANAL. BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE FIGHTING, HOWEVER, THEY MAY NOT HAVE PERMANENT POSITIONS BLOCKING THESE ROADS. ON THE SYRIAN FRONT, GROUND ACTIVITY WAS LIMITED TO SMALL-SCALE ARTILLERY EXCHANGES LAST NIGHT. ISRAELI AIRCRAFT FLEW DEFENSIVE AND RECONNAISSANCE PATROLS OVER NORTHERN ISRAEL, SOUTHERN LEBANON, AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND EARLY THIS MORNING. SMALL ENGAGEMENTS BETWEEN ISRAELI TANKS AND SYRIAN

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CONTAINS CODEWORD

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

ARTILLERY WERE ALSO REPORTED NEAR TEL AANTAR THIS MORNING. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE ACTIVITY ALONG THE SYRIAN FRONT SINCE THE HEAVY FIGHTING WHICH OCCURRED TWO DAYS AGO AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THIS LULL IN HEAVY FIGHTING MAY CONTINUE. THE ISRAELIS HAVE APPARENTLY ADOPTED A POLICY OF CONTAINING THE ARABS HERE WHILE FOCUSING THEIR MAIN EFFORT ON DEFEATING THE EGYPTIANS. A SENIOR ISRAELI DEFENSE OFFICIAL SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD AGAIN FOCUS ON THE SYRIAN FRONT SHOULD THE EGYPTIAN FORCES COLLAPSE.

25X1

FRENCH ARMS SALES TO THE MIDDLE EAST: THE FRENCH POSITION ON CONTINUED ARMS SALES TO THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES IS UNDER HEAVY DOMESTIC CRITICISM. IN A STORMY DEBATE IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 17, JOBERT DEFENDED THE POMPIDOU GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN ACCUSED BY THE SOCIALISTS AND CENTRISTS OF TAKING THE ARAB SIDE. UNLIKE THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHICH HAS PLACED A TOTAL EMBARGO ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THE FRENCH EMBARGO APPLIES ONLY TO THE IMMEDIATE "BATTLEFRONT" NATIONS OF ISRAEL, SYRIA, JORDAN, AND EGYPT. OTHER STATES WHICH HAVE JOINED THE FIGHTING, SUCH AS IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABIA, REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR FRENCH ARMS SHIPMENTS.

25X1

25X1

ADDITIONAL CRITICISM HAS CENTERED ON THE RELEASE OF TWO SHIPS WITH AMX-30 TANKS ON BOARD, BOUND FOR THE MIDDLE EAST. THE TWO FREIGHTERS LEFT MARSEILLE ON OCTOBER 11 FOR LIBYA AND SAUDI ARABIA. THE SOCIALIST MAYOR OF MARSEILLE

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2011/09/30 : LOC-HAK-548-10-23-7

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SENSITIVE

SITUATION: HAK TRIP
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REPORTEDLY WROTE A PROTESTING LETTER TO PARIS IN WHICH HE RE-
QUESTED THAT THE SHIPMENTS BE STOPPED.
REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE FRENCH DECIDE TO DO, ADDITIONAL ARMS
EMBARGOES WOULD HAVE GREATER IMMEDIATE POLITICAL THAN MILITARY
IMPACT. SOME ARAB COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY LIBYA, WOULD OF COURSE
BE AFFECTED OVER THE LONGER TERM BY ANY EXTENDED ARMS EMBARGO.
LIBYA IS DEPENDENT ON FRANCE AS ITS PRIMARY SOURCE OF AIRCRAFT
AND SUPPLIES. THE OTHER ARAB STATES, EXCLUDING LEBANON, RELY
ON THE SOVIET UNION -- AND TO A LESSER DEGREE THE U.S. AND
THE UK -- FOR THEIR MILITARY AIRCRAFT.
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THE CH
KUWAIT STOPS OIL EXPORTS TO U.S.: THE CABINET, ACCORDING TO
PRESS REPORTS, ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT KUWAIT HAS DECIDED
TO HALT THE EXPORT OF OIL TO THE U.S. IN ADDITION, OIL PRODUC-
TION IN KUWAIT WILL IMMEDIATELY BE REDUCED BY TEN PERCENT.
INDOCHINA SITUATION: THE GOVERNMENT OPERATION TO CLEAR ROUTE 5
NORTH OF PHNOM PENH CONTINUED YESTERDAY AGAINST MODERATE ENEMY
RESISTANCE. AN AREA SOUTHEAST OF SALA LEK PRAM WAS CLEARED, BUT
THE 7TH DIVISION ELEMENTS ARE HAVING TROUBLE WITH SOME WELL DUG-
IN ENEMY FORCES. COMMUNIST HARASSING FIRE IS HAMPERING GOVERN-
MENT PROGRESS. SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL, ARMY FORCES IN THE ROUTE 2/
201 AREA MADE SLIGHT GAINS AND FORCED THE COMMUNISTS TO WITHDRAW
FROM POSITIONS JUST NORTH OF ROUTE 201. ACTIVITY AROUND KOMPONG
CHAM CITY WAS LIGHT. A GOVERNMENT PATROL OPERATING NORTH OF THE
CITY UNCOVERED A SIZABLE QUANTITY OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND AS-
SORTED AMMUNITION. THE COMMUNISTS KEPT UP THEIR PRESSURE ON
TRAM KHNAR WITH NIGHT-LONG MORTAR ATTACKS AND RECOILLESS-RIFLE
FIRE. CASUALTIES IN THE TOWN WERE LIGHT.
IN VIETNAM, CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS REMAINED AT 105 FOR THE SECOND
SUCCESSIVE DAY, WITH MOST OCCURRING IN THE DELTA. IN ONE SHARP
CLASH, RANGER BORDER DEFENSE ELEMENTS KILLED 56 COMMUNISTS.
CAMBODIA TO RESHUFFLE CABINET: PRESS REPORTS FROM PHNOM PENH
INDICATE THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL -- AT A MEETING HELD ON
OCTOBER 21 AT THE REPUBLIC PALACE -- AGREED TO RESHUFFLE THE
CABINET IN LINE WITH A PROPOSAL BY FIRST MINISTER IN YAM. THE
NEW CABINET IS TO BE COMPOSED OF THREE DEPUTY FIRST MINISTERS,
SIX MINISTERS OF STATE, INCLUDING A MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE
OF NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE PROBLEMS, 16 MINISTERS AND THREE UNDER
SECRETARIES OF STATE. THE NEW CABINET WILL BE OFFICIALLY PRE-
SENTED ON OCTOBER 23.
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No Objection to Declassification in Part 2011/09/30 : LOC-HAK-548-10-23-7

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2011/09/30 : LOC-HAK-548-10-23-7

SENSITIVE

PAGE 202 SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING DATE 09/23/73//266

SITUATION: HAK TRIP
SUBJECT CATAGORY: TOHAK

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

1200

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SENSITIVE

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2011/09/30 : LOC-HAK-548-10-23-7